

August 25, 2011

The Board of Public Works & Safety met at 4:00 pm on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex with Mayor Tucker presiding and members Fuelling and Higgins attending. Others attending were Chief Beloit; Chief Dixon; Comm. Maynard; Ed Adams; Jeff Pruitt – Econ Dev Coalition of SW IN; Aaron Burke – Bernardin Lochmueller & Associates; Supt. Gray; Sue Shelton; Matt Johnson and family; Sheriff Greg Oeth; Brenda Vanderver – PC Pound Puppies; representatives of Tri-State K9 University; Chris Harp; Pam Robinson – Posey County News; and arriving during the meeting Supt. Givens.

Mayor Tucker called the meeting to order by stating members were either mailed or hand carried copies of the minutes of their previous meeting and by asking if there were any corrections or additions. He added if not, he entertains a motion to waive their reading and to approve the minutes as presented. Board member Fuelling moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented. Seconded by Board member Higgins.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker requested action on the claims presented.

Board member Higgins moved the claims presented be allowed for payment. Seconded by Board member Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

*****CLAIMS*****

Mayor Tucker stated they will now have the Swearing In of new firefighter, Matt Johnson.

Mr. Johnson came forward and was administered the Oath of Office by Clerk-Treasurer Sitzman. He was then congratulated by the Board and audience members.

Mr. Johnson and his family then left the meeting.

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the reports of the Departments.

Chief Beloit stated Officer Lemberg would like permission to attend an Instructors Development School in Plainfield September 12 – 16, leaving on the 11th. He added he will need the city credit card for expenses.

Board member Higgins moved permission to attend September 11 – 16, and use the city credit, be given. Seconded by Board member Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Chief Beloit continued his report by stating District 2 Neighborhood Watch is schedule for tonight a 7:00 pm at Trinity Church. He added they will also have a guest speaker, an ATF agent. He then stated the body video cameras they purchased, via a grant from the Posey County Drug Free Community, have

arrived. He added the cameras will allow officers to have audio and video capabilities while on the street. He stated they will have about two hours of video available.

Supt. Givens arrived at the meeting.

Chief Beloit concluded his report by stating they need to set an interview date for the candidates for the hiring list. He suggested 4:30 pm on October 6, 2011.

Board agreed.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

Board member Higgins asked how newly hired Officer Gonzales is doing ?

Chief Beloit replied he is doing just fine. He added he will be at the Safety Fair on Saturday, meeting people in the community – he is doing very well.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any other questions ?

There were none.

Chief Dixon reported the official amount of money collected during their MDA Fill The Boot was \$1,063.10, in only three hours. He added the Board made the right decision in letting them do the collection and he is proud of the job they did. He concluded by stating he will want the department to do it again next year.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Supt. Givens stated Sycamore Street was dug up and repaired, thanks to help from the Street Department. He stated it was a success and he appreciates their help.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Comm. Maynard stated the Department of Corrections contacted him asking about using some public service workers around town. He added he had them doing some trash pick up around town yesterday and feels it is a good thing. He stated it frees up the men in the department to do other things, and the public service workers are supervised by the county, so it worked out well. He then stated they will begin digging up 2nd Street very soon and there will be lots of construction there on W. 2nd next year.

Supt. Givens added hopefully it will only be torn up a couple of months, but he believes it will be longer than that.

Comm. Maynard stated he suggested the commuters, especially SABIC commuters, find an alternate route. He continued by stating the department has been making storm sewer repairs a lot this year – one at 10th and Walnut, Lower New Harmony Road, etc. and he has been getting complaints about the street cuts. He stated they should have all been fixed now, and he apologizes for any inconvenience. He added they try to repair them all at once, it saves time and money.

Board member Higgins stated she has been observing drivers going north on Main to 4th Street going straight in the turn lanes, same thing is going on at Walnut and 4th.

Board member Fuelling replied there are more options on the turn lane.

Comm. Maynard replied he believes INDOT has control of those intersections, and therefore, there isn't much he can do.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker stated they are now ready for the Legal portion of the Agenda and Aaron Burke of Bernardin Lochmueller is present about the bridge east of town.

Mr. Burke stated it actually is concerning the force main in the area.

Supt. Givens asked their plans, as he believes BLA revised the scope of work.

Mr. Burke replied they will be replacing the existing force main that is running on the bridge itself. He stated he is confident there will be no trenching involved and it should be a fairly simple project.

Board member Higgins asked the timeframe ?

Mr. Burke replied they may not need to have any permits, which will cut down on the time involved, but it should be a 60 day project once they get going on it and the drawing is approved. They will have a lump sum cost on the drawing and he feels it will be under the \$75,000 threshold for bidding therefore there will be no need to advertise, though they can if they wish. He stated their fee will be cost plus max fee of not to exceed \$11,100. He then added they are allowing two weeks for an inspector, though they will really only need one week. He stated he will help with the bids/quotes and they can use a simple contract or bid form 96 that is really up to Attorney Higgins. He estimates the cost of the work to be around \$25,000.00.

Supt. Givens questioned the requirement of a geotechnical report.

Mr. Burke replied that would really just be cheap insurance for the city, if bedrock was hit. He stated they could drill without that report but he feels the county may have had one done years ago.

Supt. Givens stated they just need to get that line off the bridge, regardless of what the county does with it after that. He asked if they should meet with the county before they proceed so they know the city's plan ?

Board member Higgins replied yes, definitely there needs to be some kind of communication.

Mr. Burke stated they can go ahead and start some of the work in the meantime.

Supt. Givens stated the city will have the plan they just need to make sure it is suitable with the county's plan for the bridge.

Mr. Burke stated there are really only two concerns: making sure there are rights-of-way there; and that the pipe will be far enough off of their structure.

Supt. Givens replied they have been talking about doing something about this for years, it is time to move forward and he would like permission to proceed.

Mayor Tucker agreed and added he does not want the city to be the one to drop the ball on this. He stated the bridge is critical to economic development in that area. He then suggested Supt. Givens, Attorney Higgins and Mr. Burke get together on some of these issues, like the new Everify, etc. and make sure the I's are all dotted. He then stated they need to move forward, talk with county, etc., and the sooner, the better.

Board member Fuelling moved they move forward with the force main project, they meet with Attorney Higgins and the county, and they relocate the force main on old Hwy 62, and proceed when everything is in place. Seconded by Board member Higgins.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker stated Jeff Pruitt is in the Audience.

Mr. Pruitt stated he has no new business, just some claims on the grant for the sewer project that need the Mayor's signature.

Mayor Tucker then signed the claim forms.

Mayor Tucker stated in the Audience is Chris Harp.

Ms. Harp approached and stated she would like permission to block some streets for a 5K run fundraiser. She stated it will be on October 1 and registration will be at 8:00 am, the run will start at 9:00 and it should be completely over by 11:00 am. She stated they will start at the courthouse and go to the riverfront to Walnut to Water, 2nd to Pearl, 3rd to Main to Canal, etc. She then stated if Board has a different suggested route that would be fine too.

Board member Higgins stated the fewer street crossings, the better.

Ms. Harp replied they are trying to stay around the water front.

Board member Fuelling stated it would be best to keep it on one or two streets.

Ms. Harp stated they will have enough personnel to be at the intersections.

Comm. Maynard added he can provide barricades.

Board member Higgins asked if they have proof of insurance ?

Ms. Harp replied no, she is not sure if they have that.

Board member Higgins stated the big thing is the insurance, they have to have that.

Mayor Tucker suggested she get with Comm. Maynard on the barricades.

Board member Higgins moved permission to hold the 5K run on October 1 be given, pending receipt of proof of insurance, and Comm. Maynard will provide barricades. Seconded by Board member Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Harp then left the meeting.

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone else in the Audience wished to address the Board ?

Brenda Vanderver approached and stated she is with PC Pound Puppies and she would like to address the Board concerning the city's current animal shelter. She understands they are having some money issues with the current system and are over budget for the year. She added she further understand their current shelter is not willing to work with the city on what they have remaining in the 2011 budgets. She added their organization can take at risk animals from high kill to no kill. She stated members of Tri-State K9 University are here as well and if the city would accept their proposal, euthanization could be taken out of the equation.

Mark Bottomley, Tri-State K9 University, approached and stated they are looking at a building just a few blocks from here and his wife does dog training and educates people. He stated they have put a proposal together as a means to save the city money. He added the city currently pays \$6 per day per dog at the shelter, and they would be looking at providing the city these services for a flat rate between \$1200 and \$1300 per month, which would pay for the lease on the building. He then stated they would have room for 20 shelter dogs there.

Ms. Vanderver stated at the current shelter there is no heat or air conditioning and the animals are not exercised. They would be more socialized at K9 University, and they would be housebroken.

Chief Beloit stated he has met informally with the members of K9 University and Ms. Vanderver, and Mike Kempf, of Kempf's Critters. He stated at this point he feels the city needs to give Mr. Kempf an opportunity to submit a formal proposal and they need to talk with City Attorney Higgins. He added there is no current contract with Mr. Kempf, they are operating off of the original contract from 2005, which has expired.

Ms. Vanderver stated she would like to ask that euthanization not be brought into the equation until a decision is made. She added PC Pound Puppies has just taken over a prison program in Kentucky and in December they will be sending 20 dogs there, most of which will be adopted – housebroken and with manners. She then stated at the current shelter, the dogs only get out once a week.

Chief Beloit questioned the jail program – if dogs that have been at the kennel for a long time have the chance to participate in that.

Ms. Vanderver replied yes.

Chief Beloit stated euthanization is a very last resort even now.

Ms. Vanderver replied they advertise that they are a NO KILL shelter, and they are so proud of that.

Mayor Tucker stated he likes the fact they are willing to come to Mt. Vernon to open their business, but his concern is there have been 26 new businesses open lately, but just as many have had to close. His concern is are they going to be here for the long haul. They are new, if something happens then the city is out on a limb. He added he isn't saying NO, he is just concerned.

Ms. Vanderver replied they will be required to sign a one year lease on the building, and K9 University has been in business for seven years.

Board member Fuelling stated he likes what he is hearing.

Chief Beloit stated they need to look at the overall picture and he feels it would be appropriate to give Mr. Kempf the opportunity to make a proposal or draft a new contract. He stated they can study what has been presented to them from K9 University and talk with Attorney Higgins on the best way to proceed. He suggested they take this under advisement.

Board member Fuelling agreed and added they do need to get with Mr. Kempf and Attorney Higgins and hopefully expedite matters.

Ed Adams asked how many dogs are euthanized per year ?

Ms. Vanderver replied they only euthanize the very aggressive dogs, after they have shown they can not be rehabilitated – probably only two to three a year total, city AND county – city, probably zero.

Comm. Maynard and Mr. Burke left the meeting.

Board agreed to get with Attorney Higgins and Mr. Kempf.

Ms. Vanderver and the Tri-State K9 University representatives thanked the Board and left the meeting.

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone else in the Audience wished to address the Board ?

There was no response.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any Old Business ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any New Business ?

Board member Higgins stated this is a water and sewer issue really, but she asked that the Board consider adding an extra month to the summer sprinkling credit on customers bills, as this has been a very dry summer and folks are still watering lawns, etc.

Supt. Givens replied he is not sure.

Supt. Gray stated it currently stops September 1 and most people still water through the month of September.

Supt. Givens asked why add another month, why not just changes the months ?

Supt. Gray replied it starts June 1 and end September 1, he would ask that they extend it to October 1 – this would make a big difference to the customers.

Supt. Givens again wondered why they couldn't just shift the months instead of adding another one. He then stated it is fine with him either way.

Board member Fuelling stated it may not help to just shift the months, it may need to be expanded.

Supt. Givens stated he does not know what kind of impact this will have, he will have to look into it.

Board member Higgins asked if she had Board approval to bring this up to the Water Utility Board ?

Supt. Givens replied sure, that is fine with him.

Supt. Gray agreed and added it will not hurt the water utility financially.

Mayor Tucker stated if there was no further business, he entertains a motion to adjourn.

Board member Fuelling moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Board member Higgins.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously and adjourned the meeting.

John Tucker
Mayor

ATTEST:

Cristi L. Sitzman
Clerk-Treasurer